

Jewelry District Association
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2016

1. Meeting began at 4:07 with a round of introductions by attendees followed by unanimous acceptance of the January 12th **MEETING MINUTES** (posted on web site).
2. **Providence Police Report: Sgt. McKenna** (Providence PD. Taking over from Sgt. Paola.) The colder weather seems to calm things down. Fatt Sq. is still closed down. Couple car break ins.
3. **Lt. O'Connor** (Brown PD). Yes, it's quieter. Set of tires stolen from a car in Richmond St. garage. Some homeless issues. And we're seeing party buses again. **Santurri**: Can we give some guidelines to Uber/Lyft drivers? They wait in the street, block traffic at closing time. **McNally**: Is there some way buses could park on the 195 land. **Santurri**: Even if there was a cost, a remote waiting area would be good. **McKenna**: That would help.
4. **Meeting with Mayor Elorza. Salisbury**: With Cesar and Anthony's help, we met on Monday. Discussed past and recent history, including the latest situations: fights, gun shots. **Santurri**: Close top an hour with the Mayor. Positive. Other neighborhoods are following our lead. Perhaps we should do a "bullet point" review to Cesar. **Steele**: We need to give facts. Information gets filtered. We pointed out that we have active contacts with 8 associations. On Federal Hill restaurant employees are afraid to leave work late at night. This info never got to Board of Licenses. (Which just renewed a restaurant license for a place with no kitchen.)

Council members are hearing it from the voters. Councilman Ryan is chairing a subcommittee, which has heard nine proposals on formal rules and regulations for the B of L. **Santurri**: There seems to be a constant reincarnation of clubs. Late-hours places need to be identified clearly so police can enforce closing times at "restaurants." Aim at the bad places. Make late closing a privilege, not a given. **O'Connor**: They come out of places and head for the late closers.

Salisbury: Maybe we could find a legal resource willing to answer questions we have about licenses and the B of L operations. **McNally**: Maybe Seth Yurdin could point us toward someone. **Steele**: ACLU points out violations of the open meeting laws. **Brooks**: Most associations don't have money for legal help. **McNally**: I can look into this. **McClure**: There's no training for B of L commissioners.
5. **Parcels 4 and 42. McNally**: Nothing new to report. You can see that Gilbane has started work on the South St. Landing parking garage and have arranged to use 42 as their staging area. On the park there are some arcane details to be worked out with the Nat'l Highway Transportation Authority. **Steele**: RIDoT had a meeting in December. Redesigning bridge 18" higher per concerns from CRMC on ocean rise. Can't change too much as landing points are fixed. **McNally**: We're meeting with CRMC tomorrow Start construction in 2016. **Baudoin**:

Working on finding money to dredge the Providence River. Original environmental impact statement included it. Federal money is available.

6. Committee Updates:

Planning & Zoning — Blake:

- a. A letter of intent is being signed on the first phase of parcels 22 and 25. Phase 1: \$250 million project.
- b. **City Walk:** City council members each have \$50,000 discretionary grant money; we'll be approaching the six through whose districts the route runs to make block grants. We have a Brown graduate student this spring who's going to help build the sociological framework for a database on the neighborhoods on the route. Jane's Walk is coming up May 6-8 for the 4th year. We'll want to do a walk in the District.
- c. **Cleanup** April 22nd. But we need a volunteer leader. **McNally:** Maybe I can help?

Quality of Life — Steele:

- a. **Board of Licenses:** Started a hearing at noon. Had four clubs, on the agenda for incidents including Fatt Squirrel where a fight broke out, near riot. One girl, age 20, involved testified that no one checked her ID on entry or when serving her a drink. We should work to raise the entry age to 21. **Brooks:** Doubt that will happen. **Steele:** No arcade coming at Fatt Sq.

The City Council Subcommittee has proposed resolutions for B of L operations, including:

- a. Make show cause proceedings open hearings
 - b. Public comment at ALL hearings
 - c. BX & N licenses must have WORKING video security
 - d. Three or more "restaurant" violation, auto revocation of license
 - e. No elected official on the B of L.
- b. **Infrastructure — Salisbury:** Barrie Daneker is talking with Cesar and the traffic dept. to see about getting adequate signage (i.e.: clear, completely distributed, up-to-date) installed throughout the District. **Dana:** Traffic lights at Clifford & Chestnut, and Clifford & Richmond hold traffic on Richmond and Chestnut for upwards of five minutes — with no traffic coming up Clifford! TV camera activation is trash.
 - c. **Membership — Donovan:** Sent out 66 renewal bills. 16 Re-ups so far: \$1600
 - d. **Website — Dana:** Minutes posted, a few other items. Check it out!
 - e. **Night Life — Steele:** Finnegan's has applied for a new license... by the same old guys. **Santurri:** Chris Harris, Frank LaTorre and I offered to testify to council to explain need for differentiation of license type. Also offered to share my "best practices" handbook on procedures with all new applicants. No one explains what a license holder's responsibilities are. The Fire Department offers a free course on Crowd Safety

Management. That should be mandatory for club staff. Like the 4-1/2 hour class to get a Floor Host Certificate. **Salisbury**: For those reasons, I asked Anthony to talk with the Fatt Squirrel owners. **Santurri**: They were uninterested.

Other business — **McNally**: The 195 Commission has received a report from HR&A Advisors. I'd be happy to go through it with anyone who's interested. **Dana**: Can we put a link on the JDA Website? **McNally**: Absolutely!

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Respectfully submitted, 5 March 2016, by Lewis Dana